

CLAIMS

1. An implantable surgical apparatus comprising:
 - a first flange having an opening therein;
 - 5 a second flange having an opening therein ;
 - a shaft having a lumen therethrough connecting said first and second flange openings, for receiving and securing an oxygen supply line.
- 10 2. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second flange are offset 90^0 from one another.
3. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1, further comprising through holes formed in the first flange for affixing the apparatus to the patient.
- 15 4. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second flange comprises a first and a second thickness, said second thickness portion being smaller than the first and being sufficiently flexible to assist in the implantation of the apparatus.
5. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a catheter inserted into the lumen for connection to an oxygen
20 supply.
6. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 5 wherein the distal end of the shaft includes a raised surface to prevent the insertion of said catheter beyond a desired point.
7. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 5 wherein said catheter
25 comprises a bushing larger in diameter than the lumen to prevent the insertion of the catheter beyond a desired point.
8. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 5 wherein the catheter comprises a preformed bend.
9. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 5 wherein the catheter
30 comprises a beveled end for easing insertion into said shaft.

10. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second flanges are opposedly curved to assist in affixation of the apparatus in the trachea of a patient.
- 5 11. The implantable surgical apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first flange has a durometer hardness of about 70 and the second flange has a durometer hardness of about 50.
12. An oxygen supply system comprising:
- 10 a first flange having an opening therein;
a second flange having an opening therein;
a shaft having a lumen therethrough connecting said first and second flange openings, for receiving and securing an oxygen supply line; and
a catheter inserted into the lumen of said shaft.
13. The oxygen supply system of claim 12, wherein the first and second flange are offset 90^0 from one another.
14. The oxygen supply system of claim 12, further comprising through holes formed in the first flange for affixing the apparatus to the patient.
- 15 15. The oxygen supply system of claim 12, wherein the second flange comprises a first and a second thickness, said second thickness portion being smaller than the first and said second flange being sufficiently flexible to assist in the implantation of the apparatus.
- 20 16. The oxygen supply system of claim 12 wherein the distal end of the shaft includes a raised surface to prevent the insertion of said catheter beyond a desired point.
- 25 17. The oxygen supply system of claim 12 wherein said catheter comprises a bushing larger in diameter than the lumen to prevent the insertion of the catheter beyond a desired point.
18. The oxygen supply system of claim 12 wherein the catheter comprises a preformed bend.
- 30 19. The oxygen supply system of claim 12 wherein the catheter comprises a beveled end for easing insertion into said shaft.

20. The oxygen supply system of claim 12, wherein the first and second flanges are oppositely curved to assist in affixation of the apparatus in the trachea of a patient.
- 5 21. The oxygen supply system of claim 12, wherein the first flange has a durometer hardness of about 70 and the second flange has a durometer hardness of about 50.
22. A method of implanting a transtracheal stent comprising the steps of:
- 10 forming a stoma in the trachea of a patient; and
 inserting said transtracheal stent into the stoma.
23. The method of claim 22 further comprising a step of securing the stent to the neck of the patient.
24. The method of claim 22 further comprising a step of folding a first flange along the length of the stent to ease the insertion into the stoma of the patient.
- 15 25. The method of claim 22 further comprising a step of inserting a catheter into the stent for supplying oxygen to the patient.